TO SELL PLATES— Assessor G. B. Workman will be selling automobile plates on January Second in Duchesne County.

Mixed blood Utes get stay of Time for paying taxes on land

The mixed blood group of Ute Indians of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation has been granted an extension of time in Duchesne County in which they must begin paying county taxes on some 172,000 acres of grazing land as provided under Public Law 671, 83rd Congress.

At their December meeting, the Duchesne County Commissioners passed a resolution extending this time from August 27, 1961 for an additional five years. This action was taken, at the request of a delegation of these mixed-blood Utes, comprised of Elmer Hackford, Preston Allen, Albert Harris and Lula H. Murdock.

Gone On Rolls

This group explained the situation of this group of people, stating that approximately 20,000 acres of Indian-owned land have already either gone on the Duchesne County tax rolls recently or are in the process; that an additional 58,000 acres canot be used by the group and will be sold and otherwise disposed of and will go on the county tax rolls, also; that there are on additional 172,000 acres on which these members depend for grazing for their livestock and which have been included in livestock corporations which have been chartered by the State of Utah.

This delegation said many of these mixed-blood livestock operators obtained loans with which to purchase their livestock, their agricultural pasture lands, their homes and farming machinery, and they are now laboring to pay off the interest and principal on their livestock and non-trust property; and since their own lands will become subject to taxation in 1961, which will be an additional financial burden on them, and imposing the additional burden of taxing their grazing land at this time might prove a larger expense than they can possibly afford, and may cause many of them to go broke and thus be deprived of their means of livelihood.

Had No Objections

The commissioners resolved to offer no objections to and recommended that the tax exemption clause, under Public Law 671, 83rd Congress (68 Sta. 873), be extended for an additional five years from 1961 in order that these people may have an opportunity to pay off many of their immediate pressing obligations and get their feet more solidly under them before imposing the taxation on their grazing land.

The commission was unanimous in its estimation that such approval of this extension will better prepare these mixed-bloods to assume their full responsibilities of full citizenship and will better assist them in becoming a credit to this county.